

Beaverton Police Department

General Order

Number: 17.02.00
Subject: RIDE-ALONG
Effective: AUGUST 1, 1999
Review: AUGUST 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007

1. PURPOSE. The department recognizes the need and benefit for citizens to observe police operations on a firsthand basis. Anyone meeting the program qualifications set forth in this chapter may ride with an assigned police officer.
2. PREAUTHORIZATION. Requests to ride with a regular police officer shall be made at least 72 hours prior to the requested ride-along time. Requests require the approval of the supervisor. The shift supervisor may waive this requirement if schedules permit.
 - A. No probationary officer shall have a rider unless the employee is asked to take a rider by a supervisor, or there are extenuating circumstances that warrant supervisor approval.
3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. Participation in the department's ride-along program is limited to individuals who are 16 years of age or older (except Peer Court Officers, Police Cadets, and family members) and who are:
 - A. Employees or officials of the city, including reserves, cadets, volunteers and peer court officers, whose participation in the ride-along program arises out of and is in the course of their employment/ association with the city; or
 - B. Prospective employees of the department, including applicants to the reserve or cadet programs who have been approved by a reserve or cadet advisor; or
 - C. Invitee of the mayor or the department; or
 - D. Family member or significant other; or
 - E. Members of other criminal justice agencies; or
 - F. Members of the community attending the citizen academy.

4. LENGTH AND FREQUENCY OF RIDE-ALONG. A ride-along shall last a maximum of ten hours. No person shall ride with any officer more than once in a thirty-day period, unless authorized by a command staff member.

5. SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES. Eligibility of prospective riders shall be reviewed by the shift supervisor. Additionally, the supervisor shall consider the following factors in determining whether to permit a person to ride with an officer:

A. ATTIRE. The rider must be dressed in a professional manner. Casual clothing, including shorts, jeans, tank or halter tops, tennis shoes, baseball caps, and short skirts, are not permitted. High heels are discouraged for safety purposes.

B. INTOXICATION. Anyone who has, or who appears to have, recently consumed alcoholic beverages or intoxicating drugs is prohibited from riding with a police officer.

C. WEAPONS. Unless the rider is a sworn member of this department or another agency, riders are prohibited from carrying any weapons while participating in the ride-along program.

D. SECURITY RISKS. Riders must not be considered a security risk. A background check of the rider may be conducted if the supervisor or other departmental employee is unfamiliar with the prospective rider. Permission to run a security check should be requested from the prospective rider. If the permission is withheld, the shift supervisor may deny the request to ride-along.

E. OPERATIONAL DEMANDS. Usually, no more than two patrol cars per shift (not including Reserves and Cadets) should be occupied by a ride-along rider at any one time.

F. SAFETY RISKS. All participants must be given copies of the Department's Rules and Regulations for Police Ride-along and be asked to read and obey them.

G. IDENTIFICATION. Riders shall wear a department supplied clip-on identification card. Police officers carrying police identification are exempt.

6. DENYING A REQUEST. The shift supervisor may deny a request for a ride-along for good reason. The shift supervisor normally should explain to the prospective rider the reason for a denying a ride-along request. The shift supervisor must explain the reason for denying a request to a superior officer, if asked.

7. GRANTING A REQUEST. If the shift supervisor approves the ride-along request, the supervisor shall ask the rider to read and sign the Department's Rules and Regulations for Police

Ride-along, as required under Sections 8 and 9. The shift supervisor shall note on the appropriate portion of the form the supervisor's name and the day and time the ride-along is approved for. The shift supervisor shall then assign the rider to an officer.

8. SIGNED WAIVER. Before any person rides with an officer, the person must read and sign the Department's Assumption of Risk and Hold Harmless Agreement. If the person is under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must sign the Agreement. The shift supervisor is responsible for having the waiver properly signed and keeping the signed waiver.

The following ride-along participants are not required to sign the Department's Ride-Along Assumption of Risk and Hold Harmless Agreement:

- A. A Beaverton Police Department Reserve Officer, Police Cadet, or Peer Court Officer who is volunteering his or her time to actively assist the Beaverton Police Department in exchange for training and experience as a police officer.
- B. A City of Beaverton employee or official whose participation in the ride-along program is work related.
- C. A sworn peace officer from another agency who has been assigned by his or her employer to work with the Beaverton Police Department.

9. THE RIDE-ALONG. All riders are considered guests of the department, and should act and be treated accordingly.

- A. PAYMENT. No rider who is a guest passenger shall offer payment of any kind to solicit the privilege of participating in the ride-along program.
- B. BRIEFINGS. Because of the sensitivity of information exchanged, the attendance of riders at patrol briefings shall be at the discretion of the shift supervisor.
- C. ASSIGNED OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES. The protection of the rider from danger is a major responsibility of the assigned officer.

Riders shall be assigned to officers by the supervisor. The assigned officer shall weigh situations for potential hazards when responding to calls. Riders are not to be exposed to situations known to involve extraordinary danger or extreme hazards (e.g., person with a gun). In such extra-hazardous situations, a rider shall be let out of the vehicle a safe distance away from the scene or the rider shall be told to remain in the patrol vehicle once at the scene. If the rider is let out, the driver shall notify the shift supervisor where the rider was let out. The shift supervisor is then responsible for coordinating alternative transportation for the rider.

D. TRANSFERS OF RIDERS. An officer with a rider shall notify the shift supervisor of a transfer of a rider to another officer. The on duty supervisor shall notify an oncoming supervisor of the transfer if the rider extends into an oncoming shift.

E. RIDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES. A rider is an observer, who is to avoid participating or becoming involved in police work, unless otherwise directed. Unless the rider is a department reserve officer or cadet, or a member of the volunteer program, a rider is prohibited from:

1. Operating a patrol vehicle or any other departmental equipment.
2. Acting as an agent for the Department or otherwise perform any police-related duty.
3. Approaching any vehicle on a traffic stop or approaching any residence, building, or other situation where the potential for violence exists or a crime is in progress, unless directed otherwise by the assigned officer.
4. Entering any crime scene of a serious nature (such as a homicide) and/or touching, possessing, tampering with, or otherwise having contact with any evidence, unless directed otherwise by the assigned officer.

10. EARLY TERMINATION OF A RIDE-ALONG. A shift supervisor may terminate a ride-along for any reason at any time. An officer may request a shift supervisor to terminate a ride-along or to transfer a rider to another officer. The shift supervisor normally should explain to the rider the reason for terminating a ride-along. The shift supervisor must explain the reason for terminating a ride-along to a superior officer, if asked.

11. UPON COMPLETION OF A RIDE-ALONG. Upon completion of the ride-along, the assigned officer shall notify the shift supervisor when the ride-along was completed and may provide any appropriate comments regarding the ride-along experience.

12. RECORDS RETENTION. Complete and accurate records of documents relating to all ride-along requests and participants, which apply to liability releases, will be maintained for a period designated by OAR.

Chief of Police

Date